

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/521,950

Examiner

Michael Burleson

Applicant(s)

TABATA ET AL.

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-13,15-18 and 20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04/15/2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art references do not disclose all of the features of claims 1-3,5-13,15-18 and 20.

Regarding claim 1, prior art references do not disclose an image processing apparatus that compresses a third color image signal on the basis of a frequency conversion system after adding the black component to the second color image signal that does not contain the black component and forming the third color image signal.

Regarding claim 5, 8 and 11, prior art references do not disclose a first color conversion means for converting a compressed and decoded first color image signal, containing no black into a second color image signal containing a black component on the basis of a first color conversion system and a second color conversion means for converting a first color image signal that has never been compressed and contains no black component, into a second color image signal containing a black component on the basis of a second color conversion system that differs from the first color conversion system.

Regarding claim 15, prior art references do not disclose a recognition means for recognizing the type of an image corresponding to a first color image signal that contains no black and a first blacking means for adding a black ratio to a second color image signal when the recognition means recognized the first color image signal indicates a letter image creating a third color image and a second blacking means for adding a second black ratio differing from the first black ratio and recognition means

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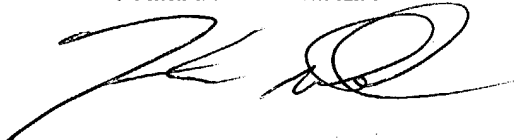
recognized the first color image signal indicates a photograph image creating a third color image.

Regarding claim 17, prior art references do not disclose a blacking means, on the basis of a first blacking system, for adding a black ratio to a second color image signal when the recognition means recognized the first color image signal indicates a letter image creating a third color image and a second blacking means, on the basis of a second blacking system different from the first, for adding a second black ratio differing from the first black ratio and recognition means recognized the first color image signal indicates a photograph image creating a third color image.

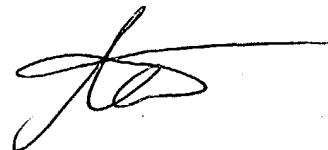
Conclusion

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Michael Burleson whose telephone number is (703) 305-8683 and fax number is (703) 746-3006. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached at (703) 305-4863

MARK WALLERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Michael Burleson
Patent Examiner
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December 26, 2004